

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 06975-653WO1	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below	
International application No. PCT/US07/62321	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 16 February 2007 (16.02.2007)	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 February 2006 (27.02.2006)
Applicant AMERICA ONLINE, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☐ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed.
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 Rule 43.6 *bis(a)*

c. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (See Box No. III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 28

- ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
- ☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- ☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/62321

Box IV TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

An avatar (505) may be used to convey information independent of information conveyed directly in a text message (1932) sent during an instant messaging communications session (1900) between two users. The information may be communicated using a change in the avatar appearance (1925) (including animating the avatar) as a communication conduit. For example, information identifying an event or a subject visually represented by an avatar may be accessed (2520). Information may be received that is related to the event or the subject visually represented by the avatar (2530), and an appearance of the avatar may be configured in response to the received information (2540).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: G06F 3/048(2006.01),3/00(2006.01)

USPC: 715/706,753
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 715/706,753

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,910,186 B2 (KIM) 21 June 2005 (21.06.2005), column 2, lines 3-24, column 3, lines 49-55, column 5, lines 62-66, column 6, lines 59-61, column 7, lines 60-65, column 14, lines 22-24, column 15, lines 7-10, column 16, lines 44-46	1-29
Y	US 2002/0165727 A1 (GREENE et al) 7 November 2002 (07.11.2002), abstract, [0402], lines 7-10, [0403], lines 5-7, [0483], [0495], lines 7-10	1-29

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
20 May 2008 (20.05.2008)

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18 JUN 2008

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